

## **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ACTIONS PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE**

*“Nearly two and a half centuries into our experiment of ‘government of the people, by the people, for the people,’ we have learned much about what supports a healthy democracy. We know that expanding the ability of all eligible citizens to vote is the central pillar. That means ensuring that all eligible voters can cast a vote; that all lawful votes are counted; and that every voter has access to accurate information. The Department of Justice will never stop working to protect the democracy to which all Americans are entitled,” Attorney General Merrick B. Garland*

### **Increase Resources**

- In the next 30 days, DOJ will double the Civil Rights Division’s enforcement staff for protecting the right to vote. *Background:* The Administration recently requested Congress provide a total of \$183.2 million for the Civil Rights Division—the largest budget increase in the Division’s history.

### **Immediately Review New and Current Voting Laws**

- DOJ is scrutinizing *new* laws that seek to curb voter access, and where we see violations of federal law, we will not hesitate to act.
- DOJ is scrutinizing *current* laws and practices, in order to determine whether they discriminate against Black voters and other voters of color.

### **Guidance to States on Election Integrity and Protecting Election Records and Voters**

- DOJ will apply the same scrutiny to post-election audits, to ensure they abide by federal statutory requirements to protect election records and avoid the intimidation of voters.
- DOJ will publish guidance explaining the federal civil and criminal statutes that apply to post-election audits.
- DOJ will publish guidance regarding early voting and voting by mail, and voting for people with disabilities.
- DOJ will publish new guidance to make clear the voting protections that apply to all jurisdictions as they redraw their legislative maps.

### **Voter Registration**

- DOJ will ensure access to voter registration for all eligible individuals in federal custody, which is consistent with President Biden’s executive order to promote access to voting.
- DOJ will assist other federal agencies in expanding voter registration opportunities, as permitted by federal law.

### **Combat Disinformation and Address Increase in Violent Threats Against Election Workers**

- DOJ will partner with other federal agencies to combat election disinformation that intentionally tries to suppress the vote.
- The Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division, together with the Department’s National Security and Criminal Divisions, the 93 United States Attorneys, and the FBI, will investigate and promptly prosecute any threats against election workers that violate federal law.

## **SELECT RECENT ACTIONS TO PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS**

- On June 8, 2021, the Justice Department sent election monitors to Union County, New Jersey to examine compliance with the language provisions of the Voting Rights Act.
- On May 5, 2021, the Justice Department sent a letter to the Arizona Senate, expressing concern over, and explaining federal legal constraints on, the conduct of its post-election audit.
- On April 15, 2021, the Justice Department [announced](#) it has entered into a proposed consent decree to settle a voting rights lawsuit with the City of West Monroe, Louisiana. The Justice Department’s lawsuit, brought under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, challenges the current at-large method of electing the West Monroe Board of Aldermen. Under this agreement, the City of West Monroe will change its method of electing its Board of Aldermen to ensure compliance with the protections of the Voting Rights Act.
- On January 12, 2021, the Justice Department reached [agreement](#) with the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of St. Louis to ensure polling place accessibility for voters with disabilities.